CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A toaster comprising:

a housing having an upper load opening and a lower discharge opening [[,]];

partitions in the housing defining ~~therebetween~~ underneath the load opening outer walls of an internal cooking chamber adapted to hold an object to be toasted [[,]] and ~~forming~~ inner walls of a passage extending between the openings, around the cooking chamber, and along inside surfaces of outside walls of the housing;

heat radiating elements in the cooking chamber positioned to radiantly heat and toast the object therein; and

cooling means including a fan in the housing below the cooking chamber for drawing outside air into the housing through the load opening, passing it downward through the passage around the cooking chamber, and expelling it from the housing via the discharge opening.

19. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18 wherein the cooling means also draws air from the cooking chamber, mixes it with the air moving along the passage, and expels the mixed air through the discharge opening.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The toaster defined in claim [[20]] 18 wherein the partitions segregate the air drawn from the cooking chamber from the air drawn in through the load opening.

22. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 21 wherein the cooling means mixes air from the cooking chamber and from the passages below the cooking chamber.

23. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18 wherein the radiating elements have a heat capacity that decreased downward.

24. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18, further comprising

means including a door for upwardly closing the cooking chamber.

25. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18 wherein the fan is a variable-speed fan.

26. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18 wherein the housing includes a crumb-collection tray defining a bottom wall of the cooking chamber.

27. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18, further comprising

a warming tray fixed on the housing immediately above the discharge opening.

28. (previously presented) The toaster defined in claim 18 wherein an upper region of the housing defining the load opening, cooking chamber, and passage is of metal, and a lower region of the housing holding the fan and defining the discharge opening is of plastic.

29. (previously presented) A toaster comprising:

a housing having a metallic upper portion defining an upper load opening and side walls and a base carrying the upper portion and defining a lower discharge opening;

partitions in the upper portion defining therein an internal cooking chamber adapted to hold an object to be toasted, and forming a passage extending between the load and discharge openings, around the cooking chamber, and along inside surfaces of the side walls of the upper portion of the housing;

heat radiating elements in the cooking chamber positioned to radiantly heat and toast the object therein; and

cooling means including a fan in the base below the cooking chamber for drawing outside air into the housing through the load opening and for passing it downward through the passage around the cooking chamber, for drawing air downward from the

cooking chamber and mixing it in the base with the air from the passage, and for expelling the mixed air from the housing via the discharge opening.